

The RAYMOND RECORDER

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S. J. WEAVER, Editor

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My Week

by R. J. Deachman

This is a serious article. It deals with waste and we who pay the taxes in this country cannot afford to waste money or effort nor to limit in any way our capacity to produce. This story deals with a matter of expenditure and also with the problem of health. We have made marvelous progress in the campaign against disease but the battle will never end. In some areas there has been success and in other areas progress has not been quite so great. I want to deal with only one issue, the death rate from tuberculosis. The following table tells the story:

	Deaths per 100,000
Saskatchewan	17.5
Alberta	18.7
Ontario	22.5
Manitoba	25.8
British Columbia	38.2
Prince Edward Island	42.5
Nova Scotia	53.0
New Brunswick	55.0
Quebec	70.0

Note particularly the fact that in the two prairie provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta the death rate is particularly low. A part of this is no doubt attributed to the fact that there is a tendency on the part of the population of these two provinces to migrate to British Columbia later in life and no doubt a part of the British Columbia death rate—it is actually double that of Saskatchewan and Alberta—arises from this fact.

Now take the four eastern provinces, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, the death rate is three or four times the Western level, even if we include Manitoba. What is the reason? They have failed in their attack upon the disease. The methods used have had a large measure of success in the other provinces. Quebec at least is checking up in regard to this and later figures show a marked decline. These figures support another argument, and a very valid one, we are making provision for a thirty million dollar a year expenditure on health and medical services. It is to be divided among the different provinces in proportion to population.

Be clear about this, we have no money to waste, our objective is to improve the general health of the people of the Dominion. What we need instead of a general expenditure covering the whole country is aid according to need. If we find in some provinces that health has been neglected the government might very well come through with a suggestion that it would make a certain contribution to the effort providing the provinces also would put up their share.

Further it is essential that under present conditions the attack should be made upon the disease. We have almost eliminated certain diseases. Typhoid is more or less a rarity. Modern medical treatment has greatly reduced the death rate in pneumonia; the death rate among children has declined sharply in the last few years. Here again education has been the factor, a growing intelligence has given up a broader knowledge of babies and how to feed them. Our task is to concentrate upon the areas where the death rate is high, upon diseases which are gaining, perhaps temporarily, the upper hand and upon certain classes among our population where the death rate is extremely high, especially that of tuberculosis among the Indians.

WILL DISCUSS PLANS FOR DRIVERS TESTS

Tests of applicants for drivers' licenses to ensure that they are qualified is to be discussed again with the provincial authorities by the Alberta Motor Association.

This subject came up at the recent meeting of the provincial board of the A. M. A. in Edmonton.

It was stated that while the prairie province had not gone ahead with plans to bring an improved system into operation this year, it is envisioned by means of the large fund being built up under the Automobile Accident Indemnity Act. This fund now is believed to be well in excess of \$150,000 and only a few claims have been made against it.

In all probability, steps will be taken to tighten up the regulations next year in connection with drivers tests.

Provincial authorities explained when the plan was not proceeded with this year that various details still have to be worked out.

A representative of the A.M.A. is to contact the government and this will be reported on at the next meeting of the board.



A new assistant farm broadcaster commentator in the CBC's Prairie Region is Bob Graham, who will be stationed at Edmonton. He is a native of Hillcrest, Alberta, and a graduate in agriculture of the University of Alberta.

A.M.A. TO REQUEST OILING OF HIGHWAYS

Improvements to highway surfacing were among the needs urged when the provincial board of the Alberta Motor Association held its semi-annual meeting recently in Edmonton.

The directors adopted a resolution requesting the provincial government to oil all gravelled roads leading to the national parks in Alberta and as far as possible all other gravelled roads to be oiled.

Attention is drawn to the serious risk of accidents and the menace to health caused by dust conditions on the highways. Also, the federal government is making large outlays in the parks to attract tourists, making it all the more necessary for Alberta roads to be made dust-proof.

The A.M.A. board also took up the question of improved conditions on roads where construction or repair crews are at work. The provincial authorities will be asked to post clear notices of such work and detours. It says that where weather or other conditions make the road or detour impassable, tractors or other equipment should be provided by the government contractor to ensure motor vehicles getting through without delay.

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